

To: Connecticut General Assembly
Committee on Judiciary

Gary Pike
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Montville, CT 06353

April 4, 2011

**Re: RAISED BILL 6632, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING OF RESIDENTIAL
SEXUAL OFFENDER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

As a resident of Montville, I would like to express my appreciation to the Committee for their re-write of HB-5911 in modifying "Section 4 of public act 10-112" to establish an appropriate level of oversight regarding the siting approval of a proposed Residential Sexual Offender Treatment Facilities. I would also like to thank the officials of the six other towns in our region who wrote letters to their legislators in support of this Bill.

Like many towns Montville is struggling with residential foreclosures and revenue shortfalls. Our main commercial business corridor is an approximate four mile section of Norwich/New London Turnpike and the sited Sex Offender Treatment Facility is located midpoint on that four mile section.

I am in full support of a mandatory pre-release treatment program for all violent sex offenders. I believe it should carry a "pass-fail" judgment as a condition of release to have value in protecting the public. If a program of this type is conducted in a minimal security facility, the motivation of possible failure and opportunity offered by minimal security is an invitation for a violent offender to attempt escape.

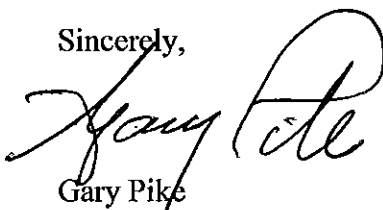
Treatment should be conducted at the current correctional facilities that hold violent offenders where the correctional staff is familiar with the specific risks associated with each offender. It's an appropriately secure environment already tailored to the offender and only lacks the desired treatment program. With any obstacles to this approach resolved, public safety, community/regional impact, all construction costs, security and staffing issues associated with a new facility are avoided.

I would add that it is my opinion that to change behavior requires an environment where that behavior is not predominating. While a facility of this type may offer high visibility to efforts to address the problem, I don't believe it offers offenders the best opportunity for self-reform.

I hope the Committee will provide the same degree of oversight regarding all aspects of such a facility that effect the safety of families, property values, tax revenues and local business, regardless of where a facility of this type is located.

I fully support Raised Bill 6632. Again, Thank you for your work on this we are very grateful.

Sincerely,



Gary Pike

CC: Montville Town Council